GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:955
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2002
BONDED LABOUR
SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned `Rescued labours recount tales of woes` appearing in the Statesman dated October 4, 2002;

(b) if so, facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the remedial steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether any other incidents of crimes of bondage and slavery perpetrated have come to notice of the Government during the last three years; and

(e) if so, details thereof State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN)

(a) & (b): As per the news item, the Bachpan Bachao Andolan rescued 31 bonded labourers, including 12 children on 30th September from a stone quarry of Charkhi Dadri in Haryana. All these labourers were migrant labourers from Chattisgarh.

(c): The bonded labour system has been abolished by law throughout the country under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. The Act provides for constitution of Vigilance Committees at district and sub-divisional levels. The District and Sub-Divisional Magistrates have been entrusted with certain duties and responsibilities under the Act. Further, the Supreme Court in its Order dated 11.11.1997 in the case of Public Union for Civil Liberties Vs. State of Tamil Nadu and Others, directed that the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) should be involved in dealing with the issues of bonded labour. The Ministry of Labour has been advising the State Governments from time to time to take cognizance of the incidence of bonded labour reported through press or by the voluntary agencies. In the instant case, the NHRC has issued notice to the Deputy Commissioner, Bhiwani to enquire the matter.

(d) & (e): A statement is enclosed.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (d) & (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 955 FOR 25.11. REGARDING BONDED LABOUR.

INCIDENTS OF ALLEGED BONDED LABOUR AND SLAVERY REGISTERED WITH NHRC DURING THE LAST THREE I.E. 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03 (upto 20.11.2002)

Sl.No.	State/UTs	2000-01		2001-02		2002-03(Upto 20.11.2002)	
		Bondage	Slavery	Bondage	Slavery	Bondage	Slavery
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5		3			
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1		3			
3.	Bihar	5	1	6	4		
4.	Goa	2					
5.	Gujarat			1	1	3	
6.	Haryana	31		12		18	
7	Himachal Pradesh	3					

8. Jammu & Kashmir 2 1

9. Karnataka 3 3 1
10. Madhya Pradesh 5 3 5
11. Maharashtra 11
12. Mizoram 1
13. Orissa 1
14. Punjab 8 89 190
15. Rajasthan 10 8 8
16. Tamil Nadu 3 3 3 1
17. Uttar Pradesh 63 34 2 34 1
18. West Bengal 1
19. Delhi 8 16
20 Chhattisgarh 1
21. Uttaranchal 4 2 1